291 draw string, so that the crown juts out above it (Fig. 21, d). In still another type, a narrow strip is sewn in between the flat crown and the band.

I was unable to trace the distribution of these various types of cap. The skull caps of soft sedge seem to be more popular with the Ikongo than the more elaborate forms, but I am under the impression that all the forms are used by all the Tanala genies except the Zafimaniry. The one-piece caps are usually worn by men and the composite forms by women. Among the eastern genies, who are [291] in contact with the Betsimisaraka, women's caps are usually decorated with woven colored designs similar to those used on mats, but finer and more elaborate. Elsewhere, they are usually plain. Men's caps are rarely colored, but are usually embroidered with dyed raffia or *hafotra* in simple geometric designs (Fig. 21, a, b).

The main garment of Tanala women is a straight, tubular dress, like a sack open at both ends. This is large enough to be easily slipped on over the head and long enough to reach from the armpits to about 3 inches below the knee. It is held in place by a narrow belt. The fabric is so stiff that the upper part stands up and covers the body. When working in the fields, the upper part is folded back over the belt and hangs like an overskirt. In rainy weather, the belt is removed, and the whole garment pulled up until the upper part covers the head like a hood (Fig. 20, *j*).

The mat dresses of the Ikongo are made from two or three cylindrical sections sewn edge to edge (Fig. 20, *c*). The construction of the raffia dresses of the Menabe (Fig. 16, *d*) has been described under Manufacture of Cloth. In both cases, the belts are narrow bands of bark cloth or commercial fabric tied in front. They are not decorated.

Married women usually have the breasts bare. In the presence of strangers they draw up their dresses and hold the upper edges under their arms. Unmarried women and girls wear short, tight-fitting, sleeveless jackets of commercial cloth, or brassieres. The jackets are probably due to Arab influence. The ordinary brassieres are plain strips of soft matting 3 to 6 inches wide. Those worn on dress occasions are made in two parts, a broad strip, tapering slightly toward the ends, which is shaped to fit and support the breasts, and a narrower strip, often of very fine weave, which goes across the back (Fig. 22, *b*).

291 An important article of clothing for women is the baby cover. [33] This is a square mat, about 18 inches across, which is worn hanging

over the shoulders. It is held by a string about the neck. Another type of baby cover is shaped like the three sides and bottom of an oblong box (Fig. 22, a). Apparently each of these types is used by different gentes, but I could not learn their distribution. The baby cover is intended primarily to protect the child from sun and rain when it is carried on its mother's back, but it also serves to keep the woman's back warm and I often saw the covers worn when no child was being carried. 291 655

The Zafimaniry have never dressed in either mats or bark cloth and make little use of raffia cloth. In pre-European times their garments were made from finely woven *hafotra* cloth. Men wore the *simba*, already described, and a mantle or blanket (*lamba*). The *lamba* is a rectangular piece of cloth 6 to 8 feet long and 4 to 6 feet wide. It is always made from two strips sewn side by side. It is draped about the shoulders, the right end, which is somewhat longer, being thrown over the left shoulder so that it hangs down the back (Fig. 20, e, f). It is taken off during violent labor. For easy work, the two sides are folded back on the shoulders, leaving the arms free. 291

Women formerly wore the *lamba* and a kilt, made from a cloth wrapped about the waist, which extended to just below the knee. The brassiere was not worn, and there were no baby covers in this group. Simple basket caps were worn by both sexes, but women frequently went bareheaded.

At the present time the original Zafimaniry costume is quite obsolete. Men wear trousers and shirts or long-sleeved smocks, usually of cotton flannel. Women wear wrappers of the Mother Hubbard variety. Both sexes retain the *lamba* and do not appear in public without it. The raffia *akanjo* is sometimes worn as a work garment, but never as full dress. Conversely, the other Tanala Menabe often wear the *lamba* as a part of full dress, but not when in ordinary costume.

The Tanala appear to be singularly indifferent to ornaments and rarely wear any when in ordinary costume. Both sexes occasionally have a string of beads tied about one wrist, and men often wear a small bracelet of plain brass or copper wire, but both these are really charms. The women of some of the eastern gentes of the Menabe wear curious neck rings of silver. These are about 3/8 inch thick in the center, tapering to 1/8 inch thick at the ends. The two ends hook together at the back (Fig. 22, d). A few of the younger women also wear earrings of European manufacture. 301